Packet 1530B Petition for Review of Conduct of Guardian

After completing all of the forms, call 414-257-5422 to schedule a review.

There is a \$15.00 Processing Fee for each petition filed. Check, cash or money order are the only accepted payment methods.

PLEASE NOTE: This packet is designed to help pro se litigants with juvenile guardianship procedures. While the information contained in this packet is about legal issues, it is **not legal advice**. The packet is not a substitute for legal advice from an attorney. If you choose not to hire an attorney, you will be representing yourself in court. It is always better to have an attorney help you in case you have questions during your case. When using these forms, you are acting as your own lawyer. You have to do everything a lawyer would do: fill out the forms, file the forms with the Clerk of Courts, have a court date scheduled, arrange for service on the other persons, gather all necessary information, appear at the hearing, and present any evidence.

Overview

The information in this packet is to help you file a Petition for Review of Conduct of Guardian. This Petition can be used:

- (1) by a parent who has a child under a Guardianship Order and the parent is being denied access to the child in violation of a court order;
- (2) by a person acting on behalf of the minor who is concerned about the child's well-being in the current guardian's care.

Things you will need to bring when you file a petition:

- 1. A valid driver's license or valid State ID.
- 2. All the forms listed below completed.
- 3. Current Addresses for:
 - a. Mother
 - b. Father(s) of all Child(ren)
 - c. Child(ren)
 - d. Current guardian if one has been appointed previously by the court
- 4. \$15.00 processing fee (cash exact amount, check or money order will only be accepted) per child.

PLEASE READ BEFORE FILLING OUT THE PAPERWORK

Documents You Must Prepare

- 1. Form GN-3670 Petition for Review of Conduct of Guardian.
- 2. Form GF-150 Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act Affidavit

Always PRINT the required information in the blanks. Never use pencil. Always use black ink.

Follow the sample that is provided in this packet. Wisconsin law requires that the minor child (the proposed ward) for whom you are petitioning either be a resident of Milwaukee County or be present in Milwaukee County. See sec. 54.30(2), Wis. Stats.

Parents of the child or children who are the subject of your petition must be notified of the court date. It is important that you provide the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office with the name(s) and address(es) of all of the interested parties. The Clerk of Circuit Court's Office will use this information to print a summons for each party on the case who must be notified of the court date. You, as the petitioner, are responsible for having the parties (usually the parents and current guardian) served with the summons.

What do I do next?

- 1. You must complete all the forms listed under the section "Documents to be Prepare," except for the signature lines. **DO NOT** sign the petition. The Clerk of Circuit Court staff will notarize your signature at the time of filing once they see your ID.
- 2. Once you complete all the forms, call 414-257-5422 to schedule your form review with the staff attorney. Just a reminder, the staff attorney cannot complete the forms for you nor can they give you legal advice.

The Review

- 1. On your scheduled review date bring all the items listed 1-4 on page 1 as well as the completed forms described above.
- 2. Report to:

Vel R. Philips Juvenile Justice Center 10201 West Watertown Plank Road, Room 1630 Wauwatosa, WI 53226

On your scheduled review date you will:

Meet with the Staff Attorney in **Room 1630**. The Staff Attorney will review your paperwork and determine if the petition is legally sufficient.

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If your petition is legally sufficient it will be filed and you will receive a court date within 60 days. The Judge will decide whether or not to grant your petition. State law requires that a guardian ad litem (an attorney) be appointed to represent the best interest(s) of the child(ren). The guardian ad litem **is not** your attorney.

After you meet with the Staff Attorney, you will file your completed petition with the Clerk of Courts office. After you file your petition, the Clerk of Courts office staff will give you the printed summons, along with written instructions about service of process.

Personal Service

- 1. Personal Service means getting the summons and petition into the other person's hand in a legally defined way to notify him or her of the court hearing.
- 2. You must have a written "Affidavit of Service" when you come to court. This will prove to the court that all parties were notified of the court hearing (time and place).
- 3. You are responsible for finding someone to hand the documents to the person needing service.
- 4. The server must be over the age of 18, a resident of Wisconsin and they cannot be a party to the action.
- 5. You <u>cannot</u> be the process server. The server must personally hand a copy of the petition and the summons to the person being served. The server should then fill out the "Affidavit of Service" and have their signature notarized.
- 6. If after diligently looking for a person you are unable to serve them in person, then you must send the summons and petition by certified mail with return receipt requested or registered mail to their known address or last known address at least 10 days prior to the hearing. Bring proof of mailing to the first court hearing.
- 7. Personal Service **MUST** be done within **10 DAYS** prior to the hearing.
- 8. If the other person is not properly notified, your case could be dismissed.
- 9. Persons that must be served:
 - a. Child, if over 12 years of age
 - b. Parents
 - c. Any person that currently has legal or physical custody of the child
 - d. The Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare if they are involved with the child
 - e. Anyone who has had custody of the child in the previous 60 days

Attend the Hearing

On the date of your hearing bring along your copy of the petition, summons and the affidavit of service. In addition, if applicable, please bring any Certificate of Death of a parent.

If an emergency comes up and you cannot make it to court on time, call the court and the guardian ad litem ahead of time to explain the circumstances. If you are late or fail to appear in court, the Judge may dismiss your case.